

IMPORTANT UPDATE:

January 4 is [National Ribbon Skirt Day](#), but EIPS is on winter break at that time. Therefore, we've planned our own EIPS division-wide Ribbon Skirt/Ribbon Shirt Day on **February 7**.

Direct Student Support

Do you know who your Lead Teacher is at your child's school? Connect with Ms Zapesocki, the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Lead Teacher at the school.

'Tis the Season our loved, near and dear may need a helping hand Our team of lead teachers, consultants and administrators want you to know we're thinking about you. Below is a list of community organizations offering support and assistance—whether you're looking to offer help or receive it—throughout this holiday season.

- Bissell Centre: 780-423-2285
- Canadian Native Friendship Centre: 780-761-1900
- Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank: 780-998-4099 | fortsaskfoodbank@gmail.com
- F.R. Haythorne Junior High has food hampers for families. Contact Lana Lastiwka at 780-467-3800.
- Lamont County of Lamont Food Bank: 780-619-6955 | countylamontfoodbank@gmail.com
- WECAN Food Basket: The WECAN Food Basket Society operates as a 'warehouse without walls.' They buy food in bulk and distribute to community-based depots. Members—\$5 annual membership—enjoy access to purchase fresh and nutritious food at an affordable price. [Locations](#)
- WINGS [Season of Safe Nights](#): 1-866-331-3933

Merry Christmas, Happy Solstice and we'll see you in the New Year!

Resources of Interest

Grant for Métis students. Drayden Insurance has created a scholarship to better support Métis post-secondary students in their academic careers. Three students will receive a \$1,000 scholarship towards their tuition. [This scholarship is by nomination.](#)

Study Help for Métis students. Rupertsland Institute has secured access to Alberta ExamBank for K-12 Métis students to test their understanding through online practice. Métis students can sign up for the [RECC Room](#) to find the login for their MNA Region. Questions? Contact education@rupertsland.org.

Curious about Indigenous-focused events and programs planned for our area?

- Visit [Strathcona County's Indigenous Connections](#) page for information and upcoming events.
- The City of Fort Saskatchewan has a [Truth and Reconciliation initiatives page](#) and an active [Indigenous Society of Fort Saskatchewan](#).
- The [Edmonton Indigenous Relations Community Bulletin](#) shares events and initiatives in the Edmonton area.

Interested in learning more about the Cree 13 Moon calendar?

[Cree Literacy Network](#) has a [printable 2024 calendar](#) around the Cree th- and y-dialects. The website is also full of excellent information and resources on Cree language and culture. The names of the 13 Moons can vary, depending on one's teachings, dialect, place and culture. For example, Métis scholar [Elmer Ghostkeeper outlines the 13 Moons](#) from his teachings—compared to Solomon Ratt's printable calendar, above. You can read more in Elmer Ghostkeeper's book, *Spirit Gifting: The Concept of Spiritual Exchange*.

[When the Trees Crackle with the Cold](#) by Bernice Johnson-Laxdal and Miriam Korner is an excellent book and activity pack that can be used by families to learn more about the 13 Moons.

For inquires about First Nations, Métis and Inuit education happening in your school, please reach out to the designated lead teacher, [Kim Zapesocki](mailto:Kim.Zapesocki), 780-998-7771.

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